

REMARKS

Claims 1-72 are pending in the case. The Examiner objected to the abstract and specification due to informalities. The Examiner objected to claims 42 and 72 for improper dependency. The Applicants have amended both the specification and claims 42 and 72 to address these informalities.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 25, 37, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,422,743 to Nirmalan (hereinafter “Nirmalan”). The Examiner objected to claims 2-24, and 38-60, but notes that these claims would be allowable if amendments are submitted to overcome the rejections of the base claims. The Examiner found claims 26-36 and 62-72 allowable.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s thoroughness and diligence spent in examining the present application. Such careful work is to be commended. Applicants have cancelled claims 2 and 38 and amended claims 1 and 37 to include the novel elements found in claims 2 and 38. Claims 3, 7-9, 11, 12, 16, 23, 39, 45, and 52 have been amended to resolve antecedent issues created by the amendments to claims 1 and 37, respectively. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request the prompt allowance of claims 1-72.

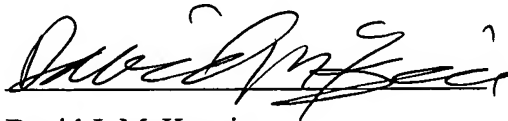
REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 25, 37, AND 61 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 25, 37, and 61 under 35 USC §102(e) in view of Nirmalan. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 37 to include the novel elements of claims 2 and 38 respectively. Therefore, because claims 2 and 38 are allowable, claims 1 and 37 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 25 and 61 depend respectively from claims 1 and 37. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 25 and 61 are allowable for the same reasons.

Accordingly, because claims 1 and 37 include novel elements and claims 26-36 and 62-72 are allowable, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 3-37, and 39-72 are also allowable due to the amendments above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance. In the event any questions or issues remain that can be resolved with a phone call, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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